

Via email
Via speedpost



File No: N-502/7/2021-NI
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

Room No. 517, 5th floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003. Dated 30th March, 2021

To,

Dr. Himangshu Das,
Director, NIEPVD, Dehradun.

Sub: 41st meeting of General Council of NIEPVD, Dehradun - reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the subject mentioned above and to say that the Minutes of 41st Meeting of General Council of NIEPVD held on 22.02.2021 have been approved by Secretary, DEPwD & President of General Council. The approved minutes are enclosed with this letter.

2. You are requested to circulate the approved minutes to all members of General Council with your signature on each page.

Yours faithfully,

-sd-

(Navin Kumar)

Under Secretary (NI)

**MINUTES OF THE 41st MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF
THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF
PERSONS WITH VISUAL DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN), DEHRADUN
HELD ON 22.2.2021 AT 12.30 P.M. THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING**

The following members were present in the meeting:

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| 1. | Smt. Shakuntala Doley Gamlin,
President, General Council (NIEPVD) &
Secretary, DEPwD, MSJ&E, New Delhi. | President |
| 2. | Dr. Prabodh Seth,
Chairperson, Executive Council (NIEPVD) &
Joint Secretary, DEPwD, MSJ&E, New Delhi. | Member |
| 3. | Shri Chindala Srisailam,
Ranga Reddy, Telangana. | Member |
| 4. | Smt. Lakshmi N.
Bengaluru, Karnataka | Member |
| 5. | Shri Radhe Shyam Sharma,
Faridabad, Haryana. | Member |
| 6. | Dr. A. Saibaba Goud,
Secunderabad, Telangana. | Member |
| 7. | Dr. Milind Madhav Kasbekar
Pune, Maharashtra. | Member |
| 8. | Shri Sanjeev Kumar,
Department of Higher Education,
Ministry of Human Resource and Development
New Delhi. | Member |
| 9. | Shri Mrityunjay Jha,
Deputy Secretary (NIs), DEPwD, MSJ&E, New Delhi. | Special Invitee |
| 10. | Dr. Himangshu Das,
Director, NIEPVD, Dehradun | Member Secretary |

Dr. Himangshu Das, Director, NIEPVD welcomed the Chairperson (GC), Joint Secretary, DEPwD and other esteemed members of the General Council. Before starting the proceedings of the meeting, Dr. Prabodh Seth, Joint Secretary, DEPwD briefly summarized the Agenda Items to be taken up during the 41st GC of NIEPVD. Thereafter, the following agenda items were taken up for discussion seriatim.

ITEM NO. 1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 40th MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

The Minutes of the 40th meeting of the General Council held on 21st February, 2020 at the conference room of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of SJ&E, New Delhi were circulated to all the members of the Council. Since no comments were received, the Council confirmed the minutes.

ITEM NO. 2 REVIEW OF ACTION TAKEN ON THE MINUTES OF THE 40th MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

Status of Action Taken Report on the points arising from the Minutes of the 40th meeting of the General Council held on 21st February, 2020 and reported by the Director, NIEPVD were noted and approved by the Council with the following observations:

1. For standardized Braille symbols in tactile form with audio description in monuments/buildings like 'Statue of Unity', 'Taj Mahal', 'Qutub Minar', etc., the Chairperson (GC) advised that the Braille symbols may be developed with Hindi and English Braille descriptions of the monuments/buildings along with bilingual print. This exercise will be beneficial for international tourists & all persons with visual disabilities.

The Chairperson, GC further advised that this exercise may be a part of the education of all children including children with visual impairment, so that students could read and develop concepts about the heritage monuments/buildings.

GC Member Dr. A. Saibaba Goud requested the Chairperson to involve Devnar Foundation in developing Braille symbols in view of its expertise.

2. As regards installation of waste paper recycling machine at DEPwD, the Director, NIEPVD informed the Council that in view of the non availability of space in the Department, the Institute is exploring possibilities to install fully automated machines combining various working features in a single machine. The Director, NIEPVD further informed that the JICA, Japan will be approached for this purpose. Once the project gets approved by JICA, Japan the waste paper recycling machines could be installed at DEPwD.

The Chairperson further advised that every Institute should have the waste paper recycling unit. This will increase the forest resources and be environment friendly.

3. For development of teaching learning materials in Mathematics and Science; the Council advised that the tactile representation of mathematics and science concepts may be incorporated in the curriculum for better concept formation amongst children. In this regard, the Chairperson, GC directed the Director, NIEPVD to write to NCERT for incorporating tactile representation of mathematics and science concepts in universal curriculum.
4. GC member Dr. Milind Madhav Kasbekar suggested to introduce Vedic mathematics for better learning and concept formation in Mathematics. The Chairperson (GC) welcomed the suggestion and directed the Director, NIEPVD to assess the same and explore the possibility to introduce Vedic mathematics at the Institute's Model School & CRC's Regional Centers in a phased manner.

After the progress and successful introduction of Vedic Mathematics at the NIEPVD model school; the same may be replicated in other schools.

ITEM NO. 3 TO CONSIDER REVISED ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2021-22

The Council perused the Revised Estimates for the year 2020-2021 and the Budget Estimates for the next financial year 2021-2022 as recommended by the EC and approved the same. Thus, the actual expenditure incurred during the current year will be the Revised Estimates for the year, while the BE 2021-22 will be 10% higher than this amount.

ITEM NO. 4. TO CONSIDER ANNUAL ACCOUNTS WITH BALANCE SHEET & AUDIT REPORT WITH AUDIT CERTIFICATE FOR THE YEAR 2019-20

The Council approved the Audited Annual Accounts with Balance Sheet for the year 2019-2020. It also perused the Draft Separate Audit Report (SAR) received from the Principal Director of Audit (Central), Allahabad for the year 2019-2020 and noted with appreciation that there is no major observation in the final Separate Audit Report with Audit Certificate for the year 2019-2020.

ITEM NO. 5. TO CONSIDER ANNUAL REPORT ON THE INSTITUTE'S ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2019-20

The Council approved the draft Annual Report of the Institute's activities for the year 2019-20.

The Chairperson (GC) advised to send the NIEPVD- Divyang Bhajan team to Arunachal Pradesh for Divya Kala Shakti Programme.

The Chairperson (GC) requested Dr. Prabodh Seth, Joint Secretary to apprise the Council Members about the services to be offered by the Early Intervention Centre set up by the DEPwD at the National Institutes and CRCs.

The Joint Secretary, DEPwD sensitized the members about the establishment of Early Intervention Centres at 7 National Institutes and 7 CRCs. He also informed about the services offered by EICs for children with disabilities between 0-6 years.

He further informed that in the next phase, EICs will be set up in the remaining CRCs and DDRCs. GC Member Dr. A. Saibaba Goud requested the Chairperson to allot EIC to Devnar Foundation for the Blind. The Chairperson (GC) informed the members that the organizations wishing to apply for establishment of EIC at their organization, are required to apply under the DDRS Scheme of the DEPwD. The Chairperson advised Dr. Gaud that Devnar foundation for the Blind can adopt one of the District Disability Rehabilitation Centres.

ITEM NO. 6 DISCUSSIONS & DELIBERATIONS ON THE FUTURE PLAN OF THE INSTITUTE

The Director, NIEPVD made a detailed PPT presentation highlighting the achievements of the Institute during the year 2019-2020 and special efforts made by the Institute during COVID 19. He also presented Annual Action Plan for the year 2021-22 and the Institute's Vision for the next 05 years.

The Chairperson (GC), Joint Secretary, DEPwD and other Council Members appreciated the work done by the Institute during the year 2019-20 and efforts undertaken by the Institute during COVID-19.

The Council was apprised of the following long-term plans for the NIEPVD:

- i. **Establishment of Braille Appliances' Sales Counter in all CRCs.**
- ii. **Partnering with RCI recognized Institutions/ Universities/State Govts. for Skill Development.**
- iii. **Capacity Building of Educators, Special Educators, Rehabilitation Professionals, Parents, ICDS, Health personnel and SSA personnel .**
- iv. **Setting up of the Experiential Learning Center.**
- v. **Special Initiatives for the North-East.**
- vi. **NAAC accreditation.**
- vii. **Initiating the process for the Deemed University Status.**
- viii. **MoU with ALIMCO for mass-production of Appliances for the visually impaired.**

ix. Introduction of a number of new disability courses.

After the presentation made by the Director, following observations were made by the Chairperson and members.

(i) In view of many old/dilapidated buildings; the Council directed that a composite DPR of all needed infrastructures for the Institute may be prepared and be completed in a phased manner. That will ensure the Institute will not have any causality; and safety and security of the Institute's inmates could be ascertained. Further the Chairperson advised that the Institute should maintain the heritage buildings and incorporate in the same in the planning.

(ii) As regards capacity building and HRD of Special Educators in the North-East, the Institute can give scholarship to North East students from North-East fund or approach the State Government and/or the Tribal Affairs Ministry for Scholarship. This will help to mobilize more number of candidates, which will be crucial in view of the dire need of professionals in the North-East.

(iii) While offering skill courses, the Institute must ensure that the training curriculum should be specific to that area/region. The Institute was also advised to enroll candidates from the States of the North East in skill development & HRD courses. The Chairperson further advised that the Institute can tie up with NHFDC and other Skill Training Partners.

(iv) GC Member Dr. A. Saibaba Goud requested the Chairperson & all members to visit the Devnar Foundation for the Blind, Hyderabad as the organization possesses all the latest technologies for the visually challenged persons. The Chairperson directed the Director, NIEPVD to visit the Devnar Foundation for the Blind.

(v) GC Member Shri Chindala Srisailam discussed about the proposed closure of the NIEPVD Regional Chapter, Secunderabad and requested the Council to write to the DEPwD in this regard. His request was agreed to by the Chairperson (GC).

(vi) GC member Sh. Radhey Shyam Sharma appreciated the work being done by NIEPVD & the Department. He requested the Chairperson to inform the members about the activities being undertaken by the Institute and the Department so that they could also get the update in the field of disabilities & NIEPVD.

(vii) The Chairperson (GC) shared the steps being taken by the DEPwD, and instructions issued to all the State Governments. The Chairperson also shared that the DEPwD has made strenuous efforts to publicise the activities and the work done by the Department amongst the masses through the social media by addressing letters to the State Governments, Chief Commissioner Disabilities, National Institutes, CRCs and NGOs working in the field of disability.

**ITEM NO. 7 TO CONSIDER POLICY FOR DISTRIBUTION OF LAPTOPS
TO STUDENTS AND TRAINEES ENROLLED UNDER SCHOOL EDUCATION,
VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FROM
NIEPVD AND ITS REGIONAL CENTERS**

The Council approved the policy for distribution of laptops to students with Disabilities and PwD trainees enrolled under School Education, Vocational Training and Teacher Education Programmes from NIEPVD and its Regional Centre as a regular feature.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.
